

SERMON NOTES:

Series: Colossians – Christ Above All | Part 1: Introduction

Colossians 1:1-2 (NLT)

¹ This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. ² We are writing to God’s holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace

Theme of Colossians: The absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as the Head of all creation and of the Church.

“There is no book in the New Testament, including John’s Gospel, that presents such a comprehensive picture of the fullness of Christ. Accordingly, there is no writing better equipped to draw us upward than the book of Colossians.” R. Kent Hughes

Colossians 3:1 (NLT)

¹ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand.

Colossians 2:6 (NLT)

⁶ And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.

Acts 19:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.

Colossians 1:7 (NLT)

⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ’s faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.

Colossians 1:21 (NLT)

²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.

Colossians 2:4 (NLT)

⁴ I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments.

Colossians 2:8 (NLT)

⁸ Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Colossians 2:16 (NLT)

¹⁶So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths.

Colossians 2:18 (NLT)

¹⁸Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud,

Colossians 2:21-23 (NLT)

²¹"Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!"? ²²Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. ²³These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires.

Good doctrine matters!

Don't allow people to corrupt the faith you have received.

2 KEY THREATS:

1. Jesus was less than God.
2. There was a secret knowledge, only obtainable by a select few people in the faith.

"The doctrine of the Person of Christ is here stated with greater precision and fullness than in any other of St. Paul's epistles." **Bishop J. B. Lightfoot**

In Jesus, his people lack nothing.

Jesus plus nothing. Jesus above all others.

Why should be interested?

1. Through this text we can know with clarity who Jesus is.
2. Through this text the two biggest existential questions get answered:
 - a. Who am I?
 - b. Why am I here?
3. Through this text we learn how these first two lessons should influence the way we live and relate to the world around us.

Are you following after Jesus as you should?

3 ANCHOR VERSES:

Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT)

¹³For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Colossians 1:18 (NLT)

¹⁸Christ is also the head of the church,
which is his body.

He is the beginning,
supreme over all who rise from the dead.
So he is first in everything.

Colossians 3:17 (NLT)

¹⁷And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.